



RATES OF ADVERTISING.						
SPACE.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.
1 inch, 10 lines, 1 week.	\$2.00	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$0.75	\$0.50	\$0.25
1 inch, 10 lines, 2 weeks.	\$3.50	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$1.25	\$0.75	\$0.40
1 inch, 10 lines, 3 weeks.	\$4.50	\$3.25	\$2.25	\$1.60	\$1.00	\$0.50
1 inch, 10 lines, 4 weeks.	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$1.10	\$0.55
1 inch, 10 lines, 5 weeks.	\$5.50	\$3.75	\$2.75	\$1.85	\$1.20	\$0.60
1 inch, 10 lines, 6 weeks.	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.30	\$0.65
1 inch, 10 lines, 7 weeks.	\$6.50	\$4.25	\$3.25	\$2.15	\$1.40	\$0.70
1 inch, 10 lines, 8 weeks.	\$7.00	\$4.50	\$3.50	\$2.30	\$1.50	\$0.75
1 inch, 10 lines, 9 weeks.	\$7.50	\$4.75	\$3.75	\$2.45	\$1.60	\$0.80
1 inch, 10 lines, 10 weeks.	\$8.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$2.60	\$1.70	\$0.85
1 inch, 10 lines, 11 weeks.	\$8.50	\$5.25	\$4.25	\$2.75	\$1.80	\$0.90
1 inch, 10 lines, 12 weeks.	\$9.00	\$5.50	\$4.50	\$2.90	\$1.90	\$0.95
1 inch, 10 lines, 13 weeks.	\$9.50	\$5.75	\$4.75	\$3.05	\$2.00	\$1.00
1 inch, 10 lines, 14 weeks.	\$10.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$3.20	\$2.10	\$1.05
1 inch, 10 lines, 15 weeks.	\$10.50	\$6.25	\$5.25	\$3.35	\$2.20	\$1.10
1 inch, 10 lines, 16 weeks.	\$11.00	\$6.50	\$5.50	\$3.50	\$2.30	\$1.15
1 inch, 10 lines, 17 weeks.	\$11.50	\$6.75	\$5.75	\$3.65	\$2.40	\$1.20
1 inch, 10 lines, 18 weeks.	\$12.00	\$7.00	\$6.00	\$3.80	\$2.50	\$1.25
1 inch, 10 lines, 19 weeks.	\$12.50	\$7.25	\$6.25	\$3.95	\$2.60	\$1.30
1 inch, 10 lines, 20 weeks.	\$13.00	\$7.50	\$6.50	\$4.10	\$2.70	\$1.35
1 inch, 10 lines, 21 weeks.	\$13.50	\$7.75	\$6.75	\$4.25	\$2.80	\$1.40
1 inch, 10 lines, 22 weeks.	\$14.00	\$8.00	\$7.00	\$4.40	\$2.90	\$1.45
1 inch, 10 lines, 23 weeks.	\$14.50	\$8.25	\$7.25	\$4.55	\$3.00	\$1.50
1 inch, 10 lines, 24 weeks.	\$15.00	\$8.50	\$7.50	\$4.70	\$3.10	\$1.55
1 inch, 10 lines, 25 weeks.	\$15.50	\$8.75	\$7.75	\$4.85	\$3.20	\$1.60
1 inch, 10 lines, 26 weeks.	\$16.00	\$9.00	\$8.00	\$5.00	\$3.30	\$1.65
1 inch, 10 lines, 27 weeks.	\$16.50	\$9.25	\$8.25	\$5.15	\$3.40	\$1.70
1 inch, 10 lines, 28 weeks.	\$17.00	\$9.50	\$8.50	\$5.30	\$3.50	\$1.75
1 inch, 10 lines, 29 weeks.	\$17.50	\$9.75	\$8.75	\$5.45	\$3.60	\$1.80
1 inch, 10 lines, 30 weeks.	\$18.00	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$5.60	\$3.70	\$1.85
1 inch, 10 lines, 31 weeks.	\$18.50	\$10.25	\$9.25	\$5.75	\$3.80	\$1.90
1 inch, 10 lines, 32 weeks.	\$19.00	\$10.50	\$9.50	\$5.90	\$3.90	\$1.95
1 inch, 10 lines, 33 weeks.	\$19.50	\$10.75	\$9.75	\$6.05	\$4.00	\$2.00
1 inch, 10 lines, 34 weeks.	\$20.00	\$11.00	\$10.00	\$6.20	\$4.10	\$2.05
1 inch, 10 lines, 35 weeks.	\$20.50	\$11.25	\$10.25	\$6.35	\$4.20	\$2.10
1 inch, 10 lines, 36 weeks.	\$21.00	\$11.50	\$10.50	\$6.50	\$4.30	\$2.15
1 inch, 10 lines, 37 weeks.	\$21.50	\$11.75	\$10.75	\$6.65	\$4.40	\$2.20
1 inch, 10 lines, 38 weeks.	\$22.00	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$6.80	\$4.50	\$2.25
1 inch, 10 lines, 39 weeks.	\$22.50	\$12.25	\$11.25	\$6.95	\$4.60	\$2.30
1 inch, 10 lines, 40 weeks.	\$23.00	\$12.50	\$11.50	\$7.10	\$4.70	\$2.35
1 inch, 10 lines, 41 weeks.	\$23.50	\$12.75	\$11.75	\$7.25	\$4.80	\$2.40
1 inch, 10 lines, 42 weeks.	\$24.00	\$13.00	\$12.00	\$7.40	\$4.90	\$2.45
1 inch, 10 lines, 43 weeks.	\$24.50	\$13.25	\$12.25	\$7.55	\$5.00	\$2.50
1 inch, 10 lines, 44 weeks.	\$25.00	\$13.50	\$12.50	\$7.70	\$5.10	\$2.55
1 inch, 10 lines, 45 weeks.	\$25.50	\$13.75	\$12.75	\$7.85	\$5.20	\$2.60
1 inch, 10 lines, 46 weeks.	\$26.00	\$14.00	\$13.00	\$8.00	\$5.30	\$2.65
1 inch, 10 lines, 47 weeks.	\$26.50	\$14.25	\$13.25	\$8.15	\$5.40	\$2.70
1 inch, 10 lines, 48 weeks.	\$27.00	\$14.50	\$13.50	\$8.30	\$5.50	\$2.75
1 inch, 10 lines, 49 weeks.	\$27.50	\$14.75	\$13.75	\$8.45	\$5.60	\$2.80
1 inch, 10 lines, 50 weeks.	\$28.00	\$15.00	\$14.00	\$8.60	\$5.70	\$2.85
1 inch, 10 lines, 51 weeks.	\$28.50	\$15.25	\$14.25	\$8.75	\$5.80	\$2.90
1 inch, 10 lines, 52 weeks.	\$29.00	\$15.50	\$14.50	\$8.90	\$5.90	\$2.95
1 inch, 10 lines, 53 weeks.	\$29.50	\$15.75	\$14.75	\$9.05	\$6.00	\$3.00
1 inch, 10 lines, 54 weeks.	\$30.00	\$16.00	\$15.00	\$9.20	\$6.10	\$3.05
1 inch, 10 lines, 55 weeks.	\$30.50	\$16.25	\$15.25	\$9.35	\$6.20	\$3.10
1 inch, 10 lines, 56 weeks.	\$31.00	\$16.50	\$15.50	\$9.50	\$6.30	\$3.15
1 inch, 10 lines, 57 weeks.	\$31.50	\$16.75	\$15.75	\$9.65	\$6.40	\$3.20
1 inch, 10 lines, 58 weeks.	\$32.00	\$17.00	\$16.00	\$9.80	\$6.50	\$3.25
1 inch, 10 lines, 59 weeks.	\$32.50	\$17.25	\$16.25	\$9.95	\$6.60	\$3.30
1 inch, 10 lines, 60 weeks.	\$33.00	\$17.50	\$16.50	\$10.10	\$6.70	\$3.35
1 inch, 10 lines, 61 weeks.	\$33.50	\$17.75	\$16.75	\$10.25	\$6.80	\$3.40
1 inch, 10 lines, 62 weeks.	\$34.00	\$18.00	\$17.00	\$10.40	\$6.90	\$3.45
1 inch, 10 lines, 63 weeks.	\$34.50	\$18.25	\$17.25	\$10.55	\$7.00	\$3.50
1 inch, 10 lines, 64 weeks.	\$35.00	\$18.50	\$17.50	\$10.70	\$7.10	\$3.55
1 inch, 10 lines, 65 weeks.	\$35.50	\$18.75	\$17.75	\$10.85	\$7.20	\$3.60
1 inch, 10 lines, 66 weeks.	\$36.00	\$19.00	\$18.00	\$11.00	\$7.30	\$3.65
1 inch, 10 lines, 67 weeks.	\$36.50	\$19.25	\$18.25	\$11.15	\$7.40	\$3.70
1 inch, 10 lines, 68 weeks.	\$37.00	\$19.50	\$18.50	\$11.30	\$7.50	\$3.75
1 inch, 10 lines, 69 weeks.	\$37.50	\$19.75	\$18.75	\$11.45	\$7.60	\$3.80
1 inch, 10 lines, 70 weeks.	\$38.00	\$20.00	\$19.00	\$11.60	\$7.70	\$3.85
1 inch, 10 lines, 71 weeks.	\$38.50	\$20.25	\$19.25	\$11.75	\$7.80	\$3.90
1 inch, 10 lines, 72 weeks.	\$39.00	\$20.50	\$19.50	\$11.90	\$7.90	\$3.95
1 inch, 10 lines, 73 weeks.	\$39.50	\$20.75	\$19.75	\$12.05	\$8.00	\$4.00
1 inch, 10 lines, 74 weeks.	\$40.00	\$21.00	\$20.00	\$12.20	\$8.10	\$4.05
1 inch, 10 lines, 75 weeks.	\$40.50	\$21.25	\$20.25	\$12.35	\$8.20	\$4.10
1 inch, 10 lines, 76 weeks.	\$41.00	\$21.50	\$20.50	\$12.50	\$8.30	\$4.15
1 inch, 10 lines, 77 weeks.	\$41.50	\$21.75	\$20.75	\$12.65	\$8.40	\$4.20
1 inch, 10 lines, 78 weeks.	\$42.00	\$22.00	\$21.00	\$12.80	\$8.50	\$4.25
1 inch, 10 lines, 79 weeks.	\$42.50	\$22.25	\$21.25	\$12.95	\$8.60	\$4.30
1 inch, 10 lines, 80 weeks.	\$43.00	\$22.50	\$21.50	\$13.10	\$8.70	\$4.35
1 inch, 10 lines, 81 weeks.	\$43.50	\$22.75	\$21.75	\$13.25	\$8.80	\$4.40
1 inch, 10 lines, 82 weeks.	\$44.00	\$23.00	\$22.00	\$13.40	\$8.90	\$4.45
1 inch, 10 lines, 83 weeks.	\$44.50	\$23.25	\$22.25	\$13.55	\$9.00	\$4.50
1 inch, 10 lines, 84 weeks.	\$45.00	\$23.50	\$22.50	\$13.70	\$9.10	\$4.55
1 inch, 10 lines, 85 weeks.	\$45.50	\$23.75	\$22.75	\$13.85	\$9.20	\$4.60
1 inch, 10 lines, 86 weeks.	\$46.00	\$24.00	\$23.00	\$14.00	\$9.30	\$4.65
1 inch, 10 lines, 87 weeks.	\$46.50	\$24.25	\$23.25	\$14.15	\$9.40	\$4.70
1 inch, 10 lines, 88 weeks.	\$47.00	\$24.50	\$23.50	\$14.30	\$9.50	\$4.75
1 inch, 10 lines, 89 weeks.	\$47.50	\$24.75	\$23.75	\$14.45	\$9.60	\$4.80
1 inch, 10 lines, 90 weeks.	\$48.00	\$25.00	\$24.00	\$14.60	\$9.70	\$4.85
1 inch, 10 lines, 91 weeks.	\$48.50	\$25.25	\$24.25	\$14.75	\$9.80	\$4.90
1 inch, 10 lines, 92 weeks.	\$49.00	\$25.50	\$24.50	\$14.90	\$9.90	\$4.95
1 inch, 10 lines, 93 weeks.	\$49.50	\$25.75	\$24.75	\$15.05	\$10.00	\$5.00
1 inch, 10 lines, 94 weeks.	\$50.00	\$26.00	\$25.00	\$15.20	\$10.10	\$5.05
1 inch, 10 lines, 95 weeks.	\$50.50	\$26.25	\$25.25	\$15.35	\$10.20	\$5.10
1 inch, 10 lines, 96 weeks.	\$51.00	\$26.50	\$25.50	\$15.50	\$10.30	\$5.15
1 inch, 10 lines, 97 weeks.	\$51.50	\$26.75	\$25.75	\$15.65	\$10.40	\$5.20
1 inch, 10 lines, 98 weeks.	\$52.00	\$27.00	\$26.00	\$15.80	\$10.50	\$5.25
1 inch, 10 lines, 99 weeks.	\$52.50	\$27.25	\$26.25	\$15.95	\$10.60	\$5.30
1 inch, 10 lines, 100 weeks.	\$53.00	\$27.50	\$26.50	\$16.10	\$10.70	\$5.35

THE FAR-OFF HEIGHT.

Oh! in fancy I have builded
Airs castles to the sky,
And as oft I've seen them crumble
To the dust, where now they lie.
I have longed to climb the mountain
That is called the Mount of Fame,
And upon its lofty summit
To write an honored name.
But to-day I view the ruins
Of so many shattered dreams,
And the far-off heights of glory
Gray within the distance seem;
Yet the ceaseless, quenchless longing
Grows with disappointment—pain,
And it may not fill my spirit
With its whispering in vain.
He may bid the shapeless marble
Rise in beauty, grand and real,
And each sorrow prove a chisel
That may shape the fine ideal;
Or, perchance, the innocent feeling
In pathetic verse may flow,
That would ne'er have had a being
Had the soul not tasted woe;
Or, perhaps, should language fall me,
Grief in broken strains would sob,
And the pulse which beats in music
With some weary life might thro.

My Grandmother's Ghost Story.

BY M. W.
We were seated around the fire, in the old oak-paneled parlor, tired out after a long day's skating, and thoroughly enjoying the quiet and the comfort and warmth of the domestic hearth, in a sleepy, cat-like fashion, when Jack, my eldest brother, rousing himself with a stretch and a mighty yawn, exclaimed, "Why, girls, how quiet you all are! Are you quite done up? Can't any one sing a nice pathetic ballad, or a good jolly hunting song—or can't any one of you play something?—No!—all too tired? Well, who will tell us a good ghost story?" "Rubbish, Jack! A ghost story—who believes such follies?" replied Geraldine. We are quite above such nonsense in these practical matter-of-fact days.
"Ah," replied Jack, with a long-drawn sigh, "there is no faith on earth! Oh, these degenerate days! Are all the charming tales we used to shudder at so delightfully in the days of our childhood utter bosh?—does not one amongst us, in his or her secret soul, nurse a fond, lingering, unconfessed belief in the shadowy world of ghosts, hobgoblins, fairies or spirits?" "I do," interrupted our grandmother, shortly.
"You, granny?" exclaimed a chorus of astonished voices.
"Yes, children, I do," replied the old lady, looking at us over her spectacles in a very dignified manner.
Now, my grandmother was the last person I should have accused of believing in the supernatural. A strong-minded, strong-bodied old lady, somewhat on the wrong side of seventy; practical and matter-of-fact to a fault; handsome still in her old age; and the clear-cut nose and brow, and decided mouth and chin, forbade the notion of weakness or credulity being leading features in her character.
"You believe in ghosts, grandma?" said little Alice at length; "and in fairies, too?"
"In wraiths, corpse lights, and fetches?" laughed Geraldine.
"Nay—I did not say that," replied my grandmother. "You make too much of my confession of faith. I merely said I believe in ghosts; and I do."
"Why?" we all exclaimed, with one voice.
"Because," answered the gentle lady, "I have seen what I firmly believe to have been a spirit from the other world."
"Oh!" exclaimed Alice, in a voice of awe; "tell us about it, grandma, please, do!" And we all joined eagerly in the request.
"Well, my dears," said the old lady, after a little hesitation, "taking off my spectacles, and laying down her knitting, 'I will relate to you my one sole experience of the spiritual world. Though the event I am going to tell you about, happened more than fifty years ago, it is as fresh in my mind as if it had only taken place yesterday. No lapse of time will ever deaden or efface the impression it made on me."
Fifty-three years ago I was a young girl of eighteen years old. I was a tall, strong, active lassie, fond of riding, hunting, fishing, and all country sports and pastimes. I could dance down any one in the country side, lead the hunt in my own county, and was never known to turn aside for the stiffest fence, or to refuse the broadest ditch. Fear was an unknown sensation to me. I did not know what nerves meant, and headaches were strangers to me. I was full of health, strength, and spirits. I was not bad-looking, either, in those days," added the gentle lady, with a sigh, and glancing at Geraldine, who our father had often told us, was the image of what he remembered his mother in the days of his own childhood. "I had many offers, and not a few admirers. I never cared but for one of them, child, and he was your grandfather. 'Ah, what years ago it seems!' and my grandmother paused a moment, and wiped her eyes.
Well, when I was just about eighteen I went to pass a couple of months with your grandfather's uncle at Gayton Castle. It was a long time before the fire which afterwards destroyed the west wing took place, and no one who has not seen the Castle before that happened can imagine what a perfect specimen of a mediæval architecture it then was.
It made a great impression on me. I remember, as I drove up to it for the first time one afternoon early in December. The rays of the setting sun glistened on the windows, and caused the stained glass to glow and sparkle like jewels in their light; a long avenue of beeches led to the Castle gate, through a finely wooded park, and in the distance a long range of mountains stood out, clear and distinct, against the sunset sky.
A large party of visitors were assembled at the Castle—quite thirty of us I should say, and a merry time we

had of it—fishing and shooting, and hunting, in which the ladies joined, were the order of the day.
At length a hard frost set in, which effectually put a stop to all outdoor amusement, and obliged us to fall back on indoor pursuits for our diversion. And when, one evening, we were all tired of cards and music, and knew not what to set about, all hailed it as a bright idea when a young lady of the party suggested that we should explore the disused portion of the Castle, commonly called the west wing.
"Ah, young ladies!" exclaimed Sir Guy, "take care of yourselves when you get into the haunted room."
"Is there a haunted room?" I exclaimed; "how delightful! Come, ladies, here is the housekeeper; let us follow her, and find the ghost."
Heaven forbid, miss!" said the old woman, gravely; "it would be an ill sight, indeed, and followed by ill consequences."
"Oh, Mrs. Carey," I laughed, "who believes in such nonsense as ghosts? I will sleep any night you like in your haunted chamber, with pleasure, and I will answer for it no ghost or spirit will disturb my peaceful slumbers."
"That's right, Kate!" exclaimed Sir Guy, laughing. "You're a brave girl. I don't believe in the ghost, though Mrs. Carey there does, and my own poor mother did also; but she was a nervous fragile creature, Heaven bless her—afraid of her own shadow, poor thing! The ghost is the only family possession I do not value, and for which I have a secret contempt. But there! I am shocking Mrs. Carey by my irreverence, so be off all of you on your voyage of discovery."
We followed Mrs. Carey down a long corridor, which led from the south to the west wing of the Castle, up along the oak staircase, through a number of disused rooms, some paneled with carved oak, some hung with tapestry, till at length, pushing open a heavy door, which creaked grimly on its hinges, we found ourselves in an octagonal room, dark and gloomy-looking, in spite of the large oval window facing the rest that gave light to it, and beneath which lay the deep waters of the moat, on which the rays of the winter moon now sparkled and glittered.
The room was completely furnished in the style of two centuries ago. A large carved oak four-poster, hung with deep red curtains, stood in one corner; beside it, on the right, was an old and massive chest; and on the left a wardrobe, high, narrow, and curiously carved.
A spinnet stood not far from the immense hearth, and variously shaped chairs stood here and there in the apartment, whilst a large mark on the wall, in the form of a crucifix that had once hung there in former days, the place had a strange, weird aspect, and silence fell on us as the housekeeper said, "This, young ladies, is the haunted chamber."
A cold air, colder than the December wind, seemed to pervade the apartment, and some loose pieces of tapestry, hanging on the walls, rustled and quivered in the blast.
"Come away, Kate!" said my cousin Lucy, shuddering; "come away, do! There's something horrid here, I'm certain."
"Why, too!" I cried, taking her by both hands and looking her in the face; "I declare you are quite pale! I vow I have taken quite a fancy to this room, and shall never be satisfied until I have slept in it."
"What! alone, Kate?" she replied, shivering. "I think it will have to be alone, for none of us would dare to sleep with you, and as to the maid-servants—But do come away! Ah! that's what!" she added, as a sound between a moan and a sigh was heard, followed by a pit-pit-pattering.
"Saints defend us!" ejaculated Mrs. Carey, who was a devout Catholic, crossing herself.
"Nonsense, girls!" I exclaimed; "it is nothing but the wind, and the snow falling from the roof." But they all took to flight, led by Mrs. Carey. When I left the room I was fain to confess that I heard a heavy footfall behind me. I followed the flying crowd, however, with a slow and dignified pace. I felt no fear, but only an intense curiosity and a feeling of determination to inquire into the secrets of this haunted apartment more closely.
As Christmas drew near, other guests were added to our numbers and all the usually occupied rooms of the Castle were occupied, when Sir Guy received a letter announcing to him the advent of a relation to whom he could not well refuse his hospitality.
"My room is at your service, uncle," said I gaily.
"And where will you migrate to, Kate?" replied he, doubtfully glancing at Mrs. Carey.
I replied carelessly. I should really like it. You know I have no fear of the supernatural, so do say yes."
I begged, I coaxed, I entreated, and at last prevailed on Sir Guy to give the necessary order for my change of apartment; but Mrs. Carey was far harder to persuade than Sir Guy, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I induced her to have the terrible room put in order for my reception.
"It's Providence, miss, and laying yourself open to the snares of the tempter. If Mr. Gerald were here he wouldn't allow it, depend on it, miss," said the good woman.
"Nonsense, my dear Mrs. Carey!" I replied, laughing. "I shall sleep here as soundly and as safely as I should in the newest, brightest room in the Castle. So good night, Mrs. Carey, and don't alarm yourself about me."
The next morning the chimney-piece rings the alarm. Miss, should you require help?" she replied, gravely, and left the room.
Before getting into bed I examined my new apartment: the embers glowed on the hearth, and I put on a log of wood to keep up the fire. Now that the place had been dusted, and the furniture set in order, the room didn't look so weird; and yet—and yet—well, I was not sorry when I found myself in bed, and the candle safely put out. I felt odd, but, for all that, I soon fell asleep.
Next morning many were the inquiries with which I was greeted when I appeared at the breakfast table, but to all them I triumphantly replied that never had I passed a better night, and that Mrs. Carey's ghost, like all others, was a myth.
So two or three nights passed quietly,

but on the fourth I awoke suddenly with a start. What had brushed by my bed-curtains, and whose was the footstep I now distinctly heard cross the room? I waited with a beating heart. The fire-light still dimly illuminated the room, and, to my horror, a dark "something" crossed it, then the flickering flame died out, and I was left in the darkness with my unknown visitor. At this moment the Castle clock struck two—a deep sigh echoed through the room. I remember no more—I suppose I fainted!
Next morning my pale looks attracted universal attention. But I complained of a violent headache, to which I attributed them.
"Well, well, Kate," said Sir Guy, "I've news for you that will bring back the color to your cheek. Gerald will be here to-morrow!"
This was news indeed! Your grandfather, who was then in the Guards, had not expected to get leave for another three weeks at least.
I soon forgot the vision (for so I persisted in calling it to myself) of the previous night, in dreams of a far different order; and when, that night, I retired to bed, sleep quickly fell on my weary eyes, and I woke not until the bright morning sun flung his rays on the newly awakened world.
But the day passed and no Gerald arrived. Vainly I waited and watched, longing to hear the sounds of his horse's hoofs ringing up the avenue; and when the Castle clock struck eleven, more disappointed and vexed than I cared to acknowledge, I slowly took my departure to my weird chamber in the west wing.
It looked more repellant and gloomy than usual, I thought, and felt as if unseen beings were lurking about. I started at the sound of my own footstep, and when I crossed the room to get into bed, hardly dared to look up behind me.
But I slept; for I remember rousing to a sense of existence by a loud thud that shook the whole room, and the same low, shivering sigh I had heard three nights before was repeated close to my ear. The heavy footstep crossed the room, and distinctly, at the foot of my bed, the figure of a monk wrapped in a long, dark robe, with a hood drawn closely over his head, shaped itself slowly out of the darkness.
I could not discern the features of the apparition, but the glittering of the snake-like eyes was plainly to be distinguished. I gazed as if fascinated on the awful being before me. I cannot say I feared it, but my heart felt chill, and the marrow in my bones frozen with awe; and a sense of deep, inexplicable mystery took hold of me, as I saw it raise its white hand, and beckon to me to follow it.
The eyes of the fearful being seemed to exercise a strange influence over me, and I found myself in my house frozen in its bidding. At that moment the sigh was repeated and I heard a faint voice whisper close to my ear in tones that curdled my blood, "Fear me not!"
But the influence of those eyes was too strong for me. I could not resist, and quitting my bed I followed my ghostly conductor across the room, feeling I had no will but his.
The room seemed changed and was lit up by a strange glare. Over the niche in the wall hung a large crucifix, veiled in black, and beneath it stood an altar, on which burned many lighted tapers; and to the left of it a small door in the oaken wainscoting stood open.
Through it and down a narrow staircase I followed my guide.
Presently we stood together on the edge of the moat beneath the oriel window, and I saw the figure of a monk, and I felt shiver and shiver, and I felt it not.
What awful power had this fearful being obtained over me that I followed him whither he would through storm and snow?
I felt spell-bound, without an atom of my boasted power of will to resist his behests.
At length we arrived at the angle of the west wing, where the old drawing bridge had once stood; and there, my guide, turning suddenly towards me, and throwing back his hood, struck at me with a shining weapon he held in his hand.
Thereupon the spell that had held me seemed broken, and, with a wild cry, I fell to the floor insensible.
When I recovered consciousness, Gerald was bending over me. He raised me in his arms, wrapped his traveling cloak round me, and carried me into the Castle.
For many days, I lay sick unto death. The strain on my nerves, and the exposure to the cold had been too much for me, and it was months before my wonted strength returned.
For a long time Gerald and I avoided all conversation relative to my strange adventures; but one day, with a wild cry, I fell to the floor insensible.
When I recovered consciousness, Gerald was bending over me. He raised me in his arms, wrapped his traveling cloak round me, and carried me into the Castle.
For many days